



FALL 2021 COVID-19 FRAMEWORK

Last Updated: 8/15/2021

ASSUMPTIONS:

- The COVID-19 pandemic will be around for the foreseeable future.
- We are open and ready to return to normal.
- COVID-19, like influenza, is a respiratory illness that requires reasonable and sound efforts to minimize spread and negative impacts to academics and university operations.
- Dr. Schnoor has asked Vice President Fraase and Dean Blackburn to co-chair a new committee to manage the institutions response to respirator illnesses, which will include at least one member from the faculty, staff and student populations.

QUARANTINE AND ISOLATION CALCULATOR (guidance for vaccinated and unvaccinated individuals):

<https://doh.sd.gov/COVID/Calculator/default.aspx>

FREE ON CAMPUS VACCINATION CLINICS:

- Co-sponsored by Avera St. Luke's
- Event is open to all Northern faculty, staff, students (along with members of the public who are S.D. residents)
- Students who receive a vaccination will get \$25.00 in *Thunderbucks*.
- Friday, August 27 COVID-19, offer both J&J and Pfizer
- Friday, September 17 Follow-up Clinic for Pfizer
- Monday, November 1, influenza and COVID-19 (both J&J and Pfizer) if CDC/FDA cleared
- Monday, November 22 Follow-up Clinic for Pfizer
- All hosted in Avera Student Center Centennial Rooms, 10am – 1pm
- Per Avera St. Luke's, face coverings will be required (200 disposable masks have been acquired)
- Residence Life will do a marketing push poll the first week of classes to promote the clinic and try to learn how many students are currently vaccinated

COORDINATION:

- Continue to offer medical partners additional COVID-19 vaccination clinics support on campus free of charge.
- Steele Hall will remain in reserve should isolation housing become necessary in the future.
- Per Avera St. Luke's, face coverings will still be required in Avera Student Health until further notice (200 disposable masks have been acquired).

EDUCATION:

- Faculty and Staff communication prior to Fall 2021 articulating key elements of our fall plan.
- Student respiratory illness (COVID-19, influenza, etc.) educational event during fall Wolf Pack Welcome.
- Residential Floor meeting will reiterate key elements of our fall plan.
- Three targeted respiratory illness communications in the first six weeks of the semester:
 - Get vaccinated
 - Take reasonable precautions
 - When ill, stay home and communicate with your professors

- Resident Assistants, TRIO Peer Mentors, and Orientation Leaders will be trained on key elements of our fall plan during fall training.
- Enhanced Avera Student Health website to help students connect to more health care resources.
- Fight the Flu Campaign (Posters, communications, and vaccination clinic).

RESOURCES:

- Avera Student Health will offer symptomatic students, including symptomatic unvaccinated athletes, COVID-19 testing M-F, 8am to 3:30pm. Much like influenza and strep, a student's insurance will be billed for the test. Students will receive results within 24 hours. (Pending additional resources from SD DOH).
- Free face masks and hand sanitizer will continue to be available in Student Affairs.
- In mid-August, we will begin promoting grants to students taking fall courses, with monies being paid out after the fall census date (Sept. 2, 2021). We anticipate running another round in the fall, as well as additional rounds in the spring semester, until the remaining have been awarded to students.

ATHLETICS:

- Coaches and the Sanford team will encourage athletes to get vaccinated.
- Athletics will conduct weekly testing on unvaccinated athletes. We will work with SD DOH, Sanford, or other partners to acquire as needed. (HEERF Funds as necessary.)
- We will carefully monitor NCAA and NSIC planning and adjust to changes, as necessary.

ACADEMICS:

- The Provost and Deans Council will be meeting with Faculty Senate during in-service to jointly develop class attendance guidelines for 2021-22.
- Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning (CETL) will offer a HyFlex Certification Program. No HyFlex courses in the Fall, 10 select faculty may teach HyFlex in the Spring 2022 semester.

MARKETING & COMMUNICATIONS:

- Will lead a campus-wide campaign to encourage vaccination. Student organizations and leaders will be recruited to help lead a student driven campaign.

HUMAN RESOURCES:

- Employees will be notified prior to fall that Northern has returned to pre-pandemic policies around sick leave, attendance, and other precautions.

CONTINGENCY PLANNING:

- On-going monitoring of SD DOH case data (<https://doh.sd.gov/COVID/Dashboard.aspx>), and continued communication and coordination with Brown County Emergency Management, Avera St. Luke's, and Sanford Health.
- Senior Cabinet and the new respiratory illnesses committee will respond to changes in Brown County infection rates with the least restrictive and disruptive interventions necessary to protect the health of the community. Options may include delayed or canceled large gatherings, limited visitation in the residence halls, restricted visitation on campus, grab and go only options in the Wolves Den, face covering and social distancing promotions, temporary limitations on in-person group projects, and mass test events.
- S.D. Board of Regents protocol calls for all BOR campuses to begin the fall semester at Level 0, meaning no restrictions will be in place. Any request to elevate the level will require Regental approval.

1. HEERF I: \$329,889 disbursed to 279 students.
HEERF II: \$369,000 (\$329,889 from student funds; \$39,111 from institutional funds) disbursed to 446 students.
HEERF III: \$296,000 disbursed to 227 students. HEERF III (Round 2): \$112,000 disbursed to 83 students. Remaining funds: \$997,445.